

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 A-01 OPR-01 SY-04 OC-01 CCO-00

SIL-01 LAB-01 IO-04 SCCT-01 /072 W

----- 106709

R 241300Z OCT 74

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2987

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

CINCEUR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LOURENCO MARQUES 0949

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, ELAB, MZ

SUBJ: MOOD IN LOURENCO MARQUES REMAINS TENSE

1. MOOD IN LOURENCO MARQUES REMAINED TENSE OCTOBER 23. ACCORDING TO NEWS MEDIA, SERIES OF RUMORS SPREAD BY "REACTIONARY ELEMENTS" BETRAYED POPULATION INTO PANICKING AND LEAVING WORK EARLY. SAMPLE RUMORS REPORTED WERE: "GROUPS FROM SUBURBS WERE ATTACKING CITY," "DOCKWORKERS WERE RIOTING;" "PORTUGUESE MARINES HAVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LANDED AND ARE GOING TO RAZE CITY;" "COMMUNICATION LINES HAVE

BEEN CUT."

2. AS A RESULT OF RUMORS, MANY OFFICES AND STORES CLOSED IN EARLY AFTERNOON AND LET EMPLOYEES GO HOME. OTHER EMPLOYEES LEFT WORK DESPITE PROTESTS OF MANAGEMENT. TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION SERVICES WERE PARTICULARLY AFFECTED, PROMPTING GOVERNMENT TO ISSUE COMMUNIQUE URGING EMPLOYEES (SPECIFICALLY MENTIONING CRANE OPERATORS AND PORT PILOTS) TO RETURN TO WORK AND THREATENING TO REPLACE THEM IF THEY DID NOT DO SO. PARTICULARLY VOLATILE SITUATION EXISTS IN PORT, WHERE CRANE OPERATORS ARE WHITE AND STEVEDORES BLACK AND FREQUENT ACCIDENTS OCCUR. IN RECENT INCIDENT, CRANE OPERATOR ACCIDENTALLY DROPPED CARGO ON STEVEDORE AND WAS BEATEN UP BY OTHER STEVEDORES. UNDER CURRENT CLIMATE MANY FEAR ANOTHER SUCH INCIDENT COULD SPARK RAMPAGE BY STEVEDORES OR GENERALIZED VIOLENCE.

3. A TRIBUNA OF OCTOBER 23 STATES MAIN HOSPITAL MIGUEL BOMBARDA REPORTS 42 DEATHS AND 150 INJURED (OF WHICH 35 SERIOUSLY) CAUSED BY DISTURBANCES OF OCTOBER 21, MANY BADLY MUTILATED OR BURNED. HIGH COMMISSIONER IN INTERVIEW WITH CONSULAR CORPS OCTOBER 23 EMPHASIZED PORTUGUESE ARMED FORCES AND FRELIMO TRROPS HAD EFFECTIVELY RESTORED ORDER ON OCTOBER 21 WITHIN THREE HOURS.

4. COMMENT: DESPITE TENSENESS, THERE HAVE BEEN NO NEW CASUALTIES REPORTED SINCE EARLY MORNING OCTOBER 22. WITH A LITTLE BIT OF LUCK, THERE WILL BE NO MORE IMMEDIATE VIOLENCE AND PEOPLE WILL CALM DOWN.
WALKER

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